



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 16, 2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
860-509-7101**

House Bill 6797 An Act Concerning the Practice of Naturopathy

The Department opposes House Bill 6797, which would make changes to the scope of practice for naturopaths and require the Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop a report concerning the scope of practice for naturopaths, including their prescriptive authority.

The Department does not support the changes to the scope of practice for naturopaths proposed in this bill. The Department is not aware of any definition of naturopathy that describes it as “the practice of physical and therapeutic sciences” as proposed in this bill. Furthermore, the Department is not aware of a formal definition of “corrective exercise therapy for rehabilitation” that would help to determine if such therapy is appropriate and within the scope of practice for a naturopath.

The Department convened a scope of practice review committee for naturopaths and submitted the report to General Assembly in 2014. The Department would prefer not to commit time and resources to repeat this scope of practice review process so soon after concluding the previous process. The Department would rather use the time and resources in the context of a profession that has not yet had the opportunity to go through the scope of practice review process.

Thank you for considering the Department’s position on this bill.